

acts in my life which has been the most moving and gratifying in meeting with and discussing the future and the past with the now liberated Americans who were held hostage in Iran for so long. I pointed out to them that, since their capture by the Iranian terrorists and their being held in this despicable act of savagery, that the American people's hearts have gone out to them and the Nation has been united as perhaps never before in history and that the prayers that have gone up from the people throughout the world to God for their safety have finally been answered."

(10) On January 28, 1981, when welcoming the hostages home, President Ronald Reagan stated the following: "You've come home to a people who for 444 days suffered the pain of your imprisonment, prayed for your safety, and most importantly, shared your determination that the spirit of free men and women is not a fit subject for barter. You've represented under great stress the highest traditions of public service. Your conduct is symbolic of the millions of professional diplomats, military personnel, and others who have rendered service to their country."

(11) During the 444 days the brave hostages were held, the rest of the United States held its breath, waiting for news of the hostages. The United States hoped and prayed together, as one, for the hostages' safe return.

(12) Bruce Laingen, who served as United States Ambassador to Iran from 1979 to 1980 and was the highest ranking diplomat held hostage, summed up the experience by saying the following: "Fifty-three Americans who will always have a love affair with this country and who join with you in a prayer of thanksgiving for the way in which this crisis has strengthened the spirit and resilience and strength that is the mark of a truly free society." It is now the responsibility of the people of the United States to honor the spirit, resilience, and strength that the hostages displayed during their 444 days of imprisonment.

(13) Now, more than 4 decades later, the United States continues to honor the hostages. The recipients of the award bestowed by this Act are heroes in every sense of the word. They are role models who wore their pride in the United States with esteem and have allowed for subsequent generations to appreciate the blessing of living in the United States. Today, as we mark 40 years since their release, the people of the United States acknowledge their endurance, strength, and contributions to seeing a more peaceful world. The hostages suffered for the United States and now it is the duty of the United States to recognize them for it.

SEC. 3. DEFINITION.

In this Act, the term "hostage" means a person of the United States who was taken captive on November 4, 1979, in Tehran, Iran, at the United States embassy and released on—

- (1) July 11, 1980; or
- (2) January 20, 1981.

SEC. 4. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design to the 53 hostages of the Iran Hostage Crisis, in recognition of their bravery and endurance throughout their captivity, which started on November 4, 1979, and lasted until January 21, 1981.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the "Secretary") shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined

by the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State.

(c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the gold medal under subsection (a), the gold medal shall be given to the National Museum of American History of the Smithsonian Institution, where it shall be available for display as appropriate and made available for research.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should make the gold medal received under paragraph (1) available for loan, as appropriate, so that the medal may be displayed elsewhere.

SEC. 5. BRONZE DUPLICATE MEDALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 4, at a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALES.—The amounts received from the sale of duplicate medals under subsection (a) shall be deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.

There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under this Act.

SEC. 7. STATUS OF MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 8. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

BIG CAT PUBLIC SAFETY ACT

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 263, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 263) to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to clarify provisions enacted by the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, to further the conservation of certain wildlife species, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, today I would like to enter into a colloquy with the senior Senator from Connecticut to discuss the Big Cat Public Safety Act. Section 3 of the bill amends title 16 of the U.S. Code, section 3372(e) by striking the entire subsection and inserting new prohibitions on private ownership of big cats, reg-

istration requirements for existing private owners, and new regulation parameters for facilities that display these animals to the public.

Striking all of subsection (e) to insert the bill's proposed language eliminates a standing protection of State authority to enact and enforce their own laws in this area. Section §3372(e)(4) currently states that "nothing in this subsection preempts or supersedes the authority of a state to regulate wildlife species within that state." By striking this protection against Federal preemption, Federal authorities and regulators would have the ability to supplant any State action or policy unless there are other sections of U.S. Code that protect the rights of States.

Senator BLUMENTHAL, do you understand this to be the case?

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Yes, I do.

Mr. LANKFORD. In light of this protection of State authority being eliminated from statute by the Big Cat Public Safety Act, I would like to clarify that there are existing protections that apply to the entire chapter in which this bill amends. Title 16 of U.S. Code section 3378(a) states that "nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prevent the several states or Indian tribes from making or enforcing laws or regulations not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter."

While this preemption provision is not nearly as clear as the one that will be removed by the Big Cat Public Safety Act, it is our intention and understanding that it will preserve the long-standing policy that the provisions being amended by this bill will not preempt or supersede the authority of a State to regulate wildlife species within that State.

Senator BLUMENTHAL, do you agree that State authority should and will be protected on this issue as it has historically been?

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Yes, I do.

Mr. LANKFORD. Madame President, I thank Senator BLUMENTHAL for helping clarify the intent and effects of the Big Cat Public Safety Act on this matter and would like to reiterate that we are not negating State authority with these changes within the bill. The Big Cat Public Safety Act will close the loopholes of private ownership that now exist and fill the gaps that exist within State laws where such prohibitions do not currently exist.

For States that have existing authorities addressing this area or any State that may enact and enforce such authorities in the future, Federal Agencies and authorities will not preempt or supersede them unless expressly authorized by that State.

Now, with this clarification and a commitment from the senior Senator from Connecticut to help include language in an upcoming authorization bill to affirm the clarifications made today, I will lift my hold on this bill.

Ms. HASSAN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Ms. HASSAN. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on the bill, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 263) was passed.

Ms. HASSAN. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNLEASHING AMERICAN INNOVATORS ACT OF 2022

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 571, S. 2773.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2773) to amend the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act to address satellite offices of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on the Judiciary with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Unleashing American Innovators Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the Office.

(2) **OFFICE.**—The term “Office” means the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

(3) **PATENT PRO BONO PROGRAMS.**—The term “patent pro bono programs” means the programs established pursuant to section 32 of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (35 U.S.C. 2 note).

(4) **SOUTHEAST REGION OF THE UNITED STATES.**—The term “southeast region of the United States” means the area of the United States that is comprised of the States of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas.

SEC. 3. SATELLITE OFFICES.

(a) **AMENDMENTS TO PURPOSE AND REQUIRED CONSIDERATIONS.**—Section 23 of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (35 U.S.C. 1 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “increase outreach activities to”; and

(ii) by inserting after “Office” the following: “, including by increasing outreach activities, including to individual inventors, small businesses, veterans, low-income populations, students, rural populations, and any geographic group of innovators that the Director may determine to be underrepresented in patent filings”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) enhance patent examiner and administrative patent judge retention, including patent ex-

aminers and administrative patent judges from economically, geographically, and demographically diverse backgrounds.”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) with respect to each office established after January 1, 2023, shall consider the proximity of the office to anchor institutions (such as hospitals primarily serving veterans and institutions of higher education), individual inventors, small businesses, veterans, low-income populations, students, rural populations, and any geographic group of innovators that the Director may determine to be underrepresented in patent filings.”.

(b) **SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall establish a satellite office of the Office in the southeast region of the United States.

(2) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—When selecting a site for the office required under paragraph (1), the Director shall consider the following:

(A) The number of patent-intensive industries located near the site.

(B) How many research-intensive institutions, including institutions of higher education, are located near the site.

(C) The State and local government legal and business frameworks that support intellectual property-intensive industries located near the site.

(c) **STUDY ON ADDITIONAL SATELLITE OFFICES.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall complete a study to determine whether additional satellite offices of the Office are necessary to—

(1) achieve the purposes described in section 23(b) of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (35 U.S.C. 1 note), as amended by this section; and

(2) increase participation in the patent system by individual inventors, small businesses, veterans, low-income populations, students, rural populations, and any geographic group of innovators that the Director may determine to be underrepresented in patent filings.

SEC. 4. COMMUNITY OUTREACH OFFICES.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall establish not fewer than 4 community outreach offices throughout the United States.

(2) **RESTRICTION.**—No community outreach office established under paragraph (1) may be located in the same State as—

(A) the principal office of the Office; or

(B) any satellite office of the Office.

(3) **REQUIREMENT FOR NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND REGION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director shall establish not less than 1 community outreach office under this subsection in the northern New England region, which shall serve the States of Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine.

(B) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In determining the location for the office required to be established under subparagraph (A), the Director shall give preference to a location in which—

(i) as of the date of enactment of this Act—

(I) there is located not less than 1 public institution of higher education and not less than 1 private institution of higher education; and

(II) there are located not more than 15 registered patent attorneys, according to data from the Office of Enrollment and Discipline of the Office; and

(ii) according to data from the 2012 Survey of Business Owners conducted by the Bureau of the Census, less than 45 percent of the firms (as that term is defined for the purposes of that Survey) are owned by women, minorities, or veterans.

(b) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of the community outreach offices established under subsection (a) are to—

(1) further achieve the purposes described in section 23(b)(1) of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (35 U.S.C. 1 note), as amended by this Act;

(2) partner with local community organizations, institutions of higher education, research institutions, and businesses to create community-based programs that—

(A) provide education regarding the patent system; and

(B) promote the career benefits of innovation and entrepreneurship; and

(3) educate prospective inventors, including individual inventors, small businesses, veterans, low-income populations, students, rural populations, and any geographic group of innovators that the Director may determine to be underrepresented in patent filings, about all public and private resources available to potential patent applicants, including the patent pro bono programs.

SEC. 5. UPDATES TO THE PATENT PRO BONO PROGRAMS.

(a) **STUDY AND UPDATES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall—

(A) complete a study of the patent pro bono programs; and

(B) submit the results of the study required under subparagraph (A) to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(2) **SCOPE OF THE STUDY.**—The study required under paragraph (1)(A) shall—

(A) assess—

(i) whether the patent pro bono programs, as in effect on the date on which the study is commenced, are sufficiently serving prospective and existing participants;

(ii) whether the patent pro bono programs are sufficiently funded to serve prospective participants;

(iii) whether any participation requirement of the patent pro bono programs, including any requirement to demonstrate knowledge of the patent system, serves as a deterrent for prospective participants;

(iv) the degree to which prospective inventors are aware of the patent pro bono programs;

(v) what factors, if any, deter attorneys from participating in the patent pro bono programs;

(vi) whether the patent pro bono programs would be improved by expanding those programs to include non-attorney advocates; and

(vii) any other issue the Director determines appropriate; and

(B) make recommendations for such administrative and legislative action as may be appropriate.

(b) **USE OF RESULTS.**—Upon completion of the study required under subsection (a), the Director shall work with the Pro Bono Advisory Council, the operators of the patent pro bono programs, and intellectual property law associations across the United States to update the patent pro bono programs in response to the findings of the study.

(c) **EXPANSION OF INCOME ELIGIBILITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director shall work with and support, including by providing financial support to, existing patent pro bono programs and intellectual property law associations across the United States to expand eligibility for the patent pro bono programs to an individual living in a household, the gross household income of which is not more than 400 percent of the Federal poverty line.

(2) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in paragraph (1) may be construed to prevent a patent pro bono program from electing to establish a higher eligibility level, as compared to the level described in that paragraph.